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HONG KONG PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Latest Tracking Poll Results

March 28, 2024

Presentation Flow

2

- Popularity of Secretaries of Departments
- Popularity of Directors of Bureaux
- Analysis of responses to “POP Panel” Online Survey open-ended questions

Contact Information (1) – Random Telephone Survey and Online Survey by SMS Invitation

3

- Date of survey: 4-7/3/2024 (for telephone survey)
- Target population: Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above
- Survey method and sample size: 1,012, including --
 - (1) 331 Random landline telephone survey samples
 - (2) 336 Random mobile telephone survey samples
 - (3) 345 Online survey by random SMS invitation**but this release has excluded all SMS samples**
- Effective response rate: 43.3% (for telephone survey)
- Sampling error: Sampling error of percentages for the telephone sample are not more than +/-6%, that of net values not more than +/-10% and that of ratings not more than +/-2.6 at 95% conf. level (for telephone survey)
- Weighting method: Rim-weighted according to figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department. The gender-age distribution of the Hong Kong population came from “Mid-year population for 2022”, while the educational attainment (highest level attended) distribution and economic activity status distribution came from “Women and Men in Hong Kong - Key Statistics (2022 Edition)”.

Contact Information (2) – “POP Panel” Online Survey

4

- Date of survey: 11-16/3/2024
- Target population: Hong Kong residents aged 12 or above
- Survey method: Online survey by email invitation to POP Panel members (including “Hong Kong People Representative Panel” and “Hong Kong People Volunteer Panel”)
- Sample size: 1,052 (including 1,050 respondents aged 18 or above and 2 other respondents)
- Success rate: 4.7%
- Sampling error: Sampling error of percentages not more than 3.0% at 95% conf. level
- Weighting method: Rim-weighted according to 1) gender-age distribution, educational attainment (highest level attended) distribution and economic activity status distribution of the Hong Kong population from the Census and Statistics Department; 2) appraisal of political condition and political inclination distribution from regular tracking telephone surveys.

Survey Result - Popularity of Secretaries of Departments

5

● Popularity of Chief Secretary for Administration

		1-16/12/2023	4-7/3/2024 (for telephone survey)#	Latest change	Record
CS Eric Chan	Rating	47.1	43.6	▼3.6*	Record low since taking office
	Vote of confidence	49%	42%	▼6%*	Record low since Jun 2023
	Vote of no confidence	29%	35%	▲6%*	Record high since taking office
	Net approval rate	20%	8%	▼12%*	Record low since Mar 2023

- Results from the telephone survey show that the support rating of CS Eric Chan is 43.6 marks, which has **significantly decreased** compared to three months ago and registered a **record low** since he took office. His approval rate stands at 42%, disapproval rate 35%, giving a net popularity of positive 8 percentage points, which has also **dropped significantly** compared to three months ago.

excluding the SMS online sample * Sig. change

Survey Result - Popularity of Secretaries of Departments

6

● Popularity of Financial Secretary

		1-16/12/2023	4-7/3/2024 (for telephone survey)#	Latest change	Record
FS Paul Chan	Rating	56.6	46.6	▼9.9*	Record low since Mar 2022
	Vote of confidence	68%	49%	▼19%*	Record low since May 2022
	Vote of no confidence	22%	41%	▲19%*	Record high since Jun 2021
	Net approval rate	46%	9%	▼37%*	Record low since Feb 2022

- After delivery of the Budget Speech, the support rating of **FS Paul Chan** is 46.6 marks, which has **plunged** by nearly 10 marks compared to three months ago and registered a **record low** since March 2022. His approval rate stands at 49%, disapproval rate 41%, thus a net popularity of positive 9 percentage points, which has **plummeted** by 37 percentage points to a **record low** since February 2022.

excluding the SMS online sample * Sig. change

Survey Result - Popularity of Secretaries of Departments

7

● Popularity of Secretary for Justice

		1-16/12/2023	4-7/3/2024 (for telephone survey)#	Latest change	Record
SJ Paul Lam	Rating	46.7	43.7	▼3.0	Record low since Mar 2023
	Vote of confidence	53%	48%	▼5%*	Record low since Sep 2023
	Vote of no confidence	28%	32%	▲4%*	Record high since Sep 2023
	Net approval rate	25%	15%	▼9%*	Record low since Sep 2023

- As for **SJ Paul Lam**, his support rating is 43.7 marks. His approval rate stands at 48%, disapproval rate 32%, giving a net popularity of positive 15 percentage points, which has also **dropped significantly** compared to three months ago.

Survey Result – Net Popularity of Directors of Bureaux

8

	7-19/9/2023	4-7/3/2024#	Latest Change	Record
Secretary for Transport and Logistics Lam Sai-hung	22%	36%	▲14%*	Record high since taking office
Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho	24%	24%	----	Record high since taking office
Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung	20%	23%	▲3%	Record high since taking office
Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau	19%	21%	▲2%	Record high since taking office
Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong	16%	20%	▲3%	Record high since taking office
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Erick Tsang	14%	16%	▲2%	Record high since Sep 2023
Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn	18%	15%	▼3%	Record low since Mar 2023
Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun	26%	14%	▼12%*	Record low since Mar 2023
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui	18%	11%	▼7%	Record low since Jun 2022
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau	17%	10%	▼7%	Record low since taking office
Secretary for Security Chris Tang	17%	9%	▼7%	Record low since Mar 2023
Secretary for Environment and Ecology Tse Chin-wan	20%	2%	▼19%*	Record low since taking office
Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Alice Mak	9%	1%	▼8%	Record low since taking office
Secretary for Education Christine Choi	-2%	-8%	▼6%	Record low since taking office
Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung	2%	-18%	▼20%*	Record low since taking office

excluding the SMS online sample * Sig. change

Survey Result - Popularity of Directors of Bureaux

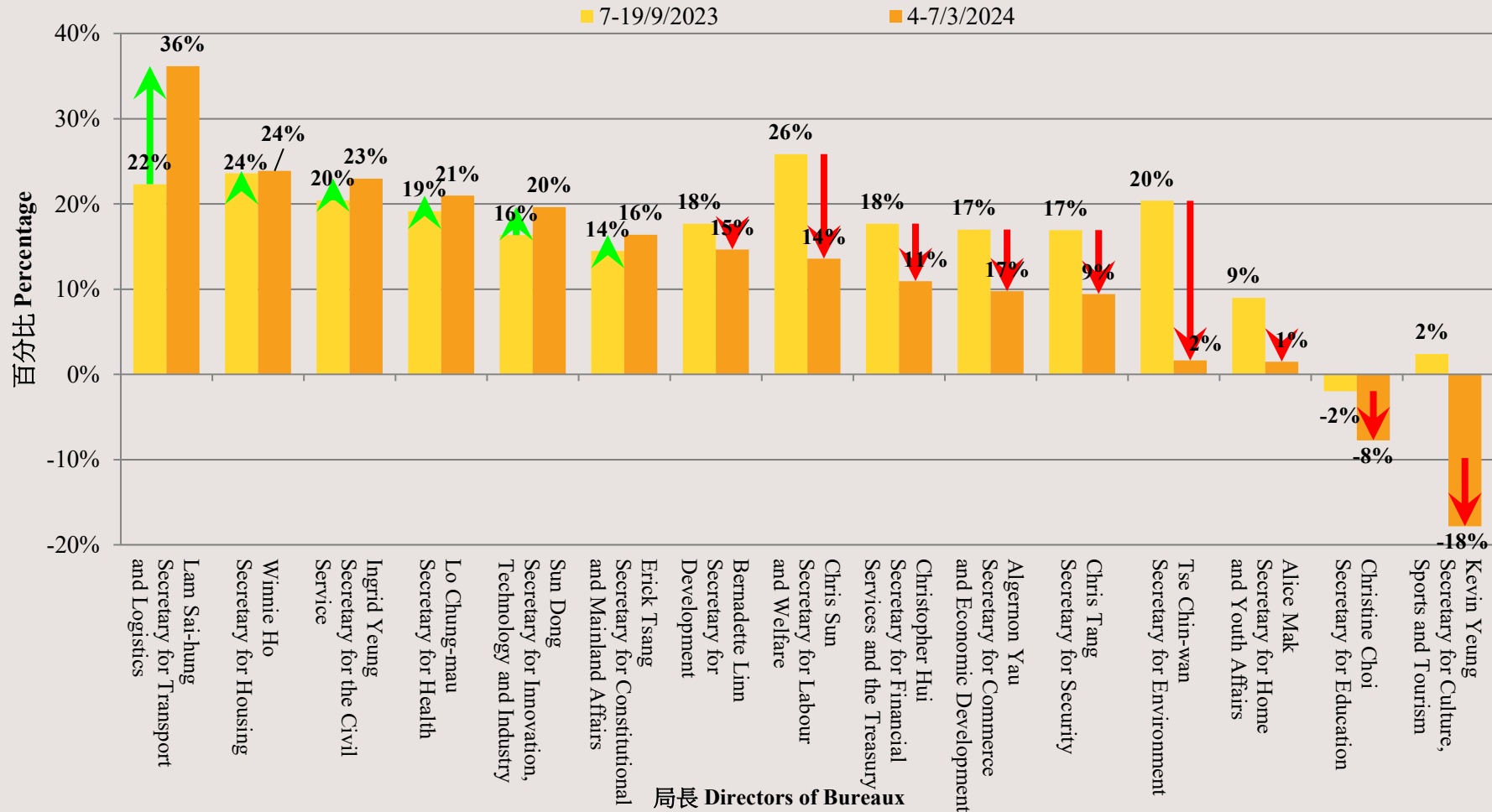
9

● Popularity of Directors of Bureaux

- Among the fifteen Directors of Bureaux, **Secretary for Education Christine Choi** and **Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung** got **negative** net approval rates, while the rest are positive.
- Ranked from high to low according to net approval rates, they are **Secretary for Transport and Logistics Lam Sai-hung**, **Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho**, **Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung**, **Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau**, **Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong**, **Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Erick Tsang**, **Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn**, **Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun**, **Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui**, **Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau**, **Secretary for Security Chris Tang**, **Secretary for Environment and Ecology Tse Chin-wan**, **Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Alice Mak**, **Secretary for Education Christine Choi** and **Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Kevin Yeung**.
- Compared to half a year ago, the net approval rate of **Lam Sai-hung** has **significantly increased**, while that of **Chris Sun**, **Tse Chin-wan** and **Kevin Yeung** have registered **significant decreases**.

Survey Result - Popularity of Directors of Bureaux

各局長假設投票結果 (支持率淨值) - 綜合圖表
 Hypothetical Voting of Directors of Bureau (Net Approval Rate) - Combined Charts



Presentation Flow

11

- Popularity of Secretaries of Departments
- Popularity of Directors of Bureaux
- Analysis of responses to “POP Panel” Online Survey open-ended questions

“POP Panel” Online Survey – Open-ended questions

12

- **Inclusion of open-ended questions**

- Why do you tend to vote for “reappoint”/”dismiss” CS Eric Chan?
- Why do you tend to vote for “reappoint”/”dismiss” FS Paul Chan?
- Why do you tend to vote for “reappoint”/”dismiss” SJ Paul Lam?

- **Steps for processing the responses**

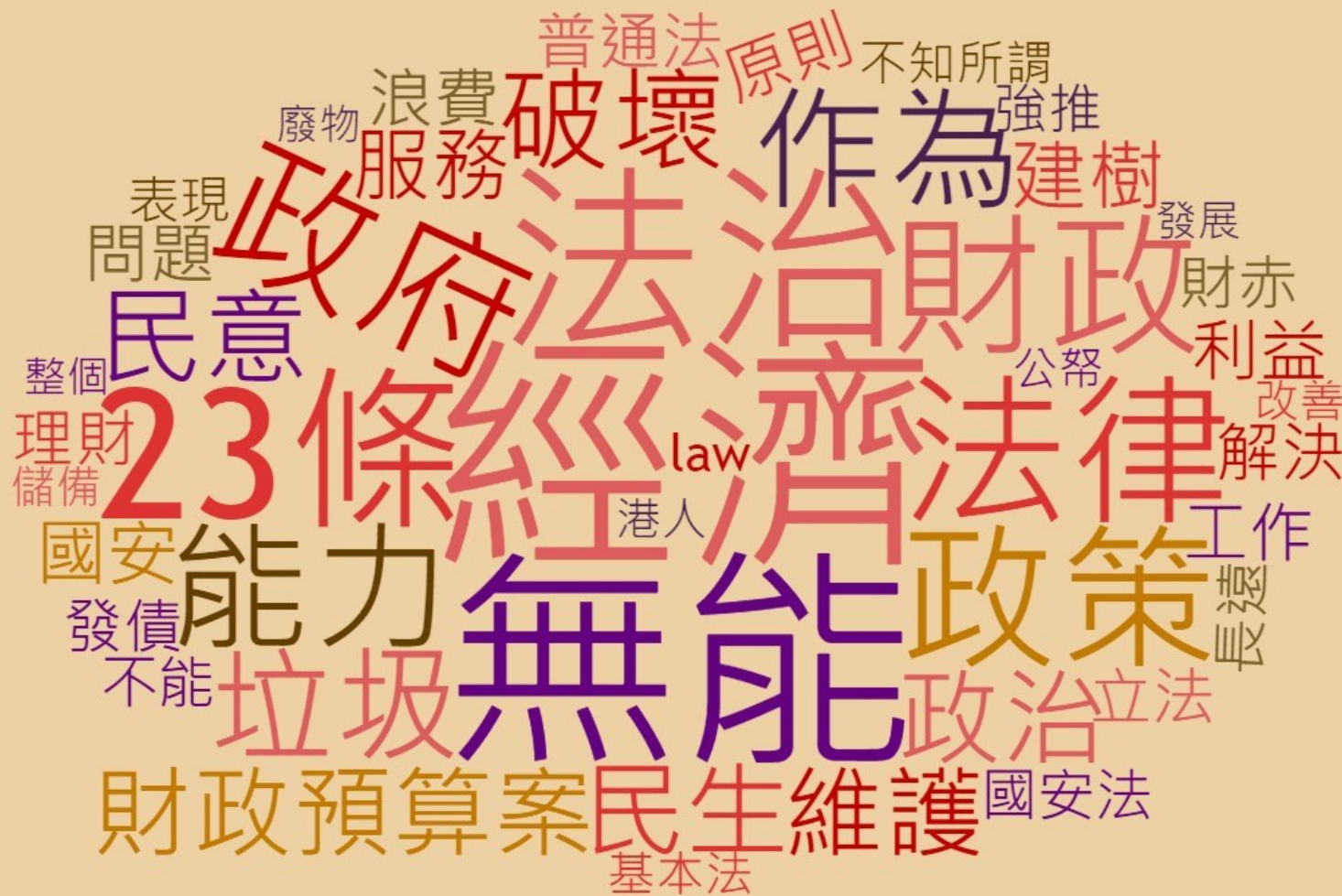
- Divide all responses into two main group – “reappointment” and “dismissal”;
- Subjected to word segmentation using "PyCantonese“;
- Remove unmeaningful words, words that appear only once, punctuations and 1-letter words;
- Select around 50 words **in both groups respectively** that appeared the most in raw samples;
- Generate a word cloud with selected words using “HTML5 Word Cloud”.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions Responses – Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” the Secretaries of Departments



“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Questions Responses – Reasons for choosing to “dismiss” the Secretaries of Departments

14



“POP Panel” Online Survey – Open-ended questions

15

- **Summarized all open-ended responses by Perplexity AI**
 - Further categorised all responses into reasons of choosing “reappointment” or “dismissal” in the hypothetical voting questions on **EACH Secretary of Departments (six groups in total)**;
 - The six resulting groups of answers were then uploaded respectively to Perplexity AI with the prompt to “sort the content into 3 categories”;
 - Record the **original responses** given by Perplexity AI

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Responses – Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” or “dismiss” CS Eric Chan

16

Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” CS Eric Chan

- **Competence and Performance**
 - Effective Performance: Acknowledgment of his fantastic job and ability to explain government policies and plans.
 - Lack of Major Mistakes: Recognition of his performance without any significant faults or disastrous errors.
- **Stability and Continuity**
 - Perceived Suitability: Viewed as the best candidate currently available with no one better than him at the moment.
 - Maintenance of Stability: Seen as maintaining stability and satisfactory performance, with no reason for dismissal.
- **Lack of Alternatives and Experience**
 - Absence of Better Candidates: Perception that there are no suitable alternatives, leading to uncertainty with inexperienced replacements.
 - Concern for Disruption: Apprehension that replacing him could bring uncertainty and potential disruptions due to inexperienced individuals.

Reasons for choosing to “dismiss” CS Eric Chan

- **Lack of Contribution to Hong Kong’s Economy**
 - Not improving Hong Kong’s economic situation despite the challenging times, leading to no salary cuts for civil servants and the imposition of garbage fees.
 - His policies have been seen as detrimental to the economy, such as the controversial Lantau Tomorrow Vision project, which persists despite significant deficits in Hong Kong.
- **Perceived Alignment with Beijing over Hong Kong’s Interests**
 - Prioritizes pleasing mainland China over serving the interests of Hong Kong residents.
 - His actions are viewed as undermining Hong Kong’s unique values and international standing, particularly in disregarding international concerns over the National Security Law.
- **Incompetence and Lack of Understanding of Hong Kong’s Needs**
 - Lack the ability to govern effectively, fail to grasp the governance methods of the Chinese Communist Party, and focus solely on loyalty without considering the consequences.
 - Does not comprehend the challenges faced by Hong Kong, neglecting the city’s economic, political, and social needs in favor of fulfilling political directives.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Responses – Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” or “dismiss” FS Paul Chan

17

Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” FS Paul Chan

- **Financial Management Competence**
 - Demonstrated strong financial management skills.
 - Maintained Hong Kong's financial stability.
 - Implemented effective economic policies.
 - Managed budgets prudently.
 - Showed foresight in financial planning.
- **Stability and Experience**
 - Provided stability during challenging times.
 - Possessed significant experience in handling Hong Kong's affairs.
 - Knowledgeable about the local situation.
 - Made decisions that aligned with Hong Kong's current environment.
 - Displayed a sense of responsibility towards the people of Hong Kong.
- **Lack of Better Alternatives**
 - No suitable candidates available for the position.
 - Compared to other officials, perceived as less objectionable.
 - Limited options due to the difficulty in finding a better replacement.
 - Despite shortcomings, considered the best available choice.
 - Acknowledged for at least having a basic understanding of the situation.

Reasons for choosing to “dismiss” FS Paul Chan

- **Financial Mismanagement**
 - The individual has been ineffective in managing the financial budget, leading to deficits and financial instability.
 - Lack of concrete measures to sustain economic growth and support citizens in need.
 - Incompetence in balancing expenditure and revenue, resulting in wasteful spending.
 - Issuing debt without a clear plan, burdening future generations with financial liabilities.
 - Spending public money unwisely, favoring conglomerates over citizens.
- **Lack of Vision and Planning**
 - Absence of a long-term economic strategy and narrow vision.
 - Failure to address economic downturns and revive the economy effectively.
 - No insightful planning or development of new economic initiatives.
 - Inability to foresee and prepare for future financial challenges.
 - Prioritizing policies that please Beijing over those benefiting Hong Kong citizens.
- **Questionable Integrity and Representation**
 - Doubtful moral character and lack of integrity in financial matters.
 - Not representing the interests of Hong Kong citizens effectively.
 - Inability to understand or address the economic needs and aspirations of the local population.
 - Lack of accountability and responsiveness to general citizens' concerns.
 - Being perceived as a puppet or serving interests other than those of Hong Kong residents.

“POP Panel” Online Survey Open-ended Responses – Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” or “dismiss” SJ Paul Lam

18

Reasons for choosing to “reappoint” SJ Paul Lam

- **Professional Capabilities and Competence**
 - Demonstrated professionalism and intelligence.
 - Considered smart and capable.
 - Efforts in Article 23 legislation were praised.
 - Clear and vivid explanations during the legislation process.
 - Upheld judicial justice effectively.
- **Balancing Act and Patriotism**
 - Balances Western and Chinese demands effectively.
 - Supports national interests while governing Hong Kong.
 - Willingness to face challenges, even unpopular decisions like implementing Basic Law Article 23.
 - Shows love for the country and Hong Kong.
 - Aims to integrate Hong Kong with China swiftly.
- **Lack of Better Alternatives**
 - No other candidates perceived as more competent.
 - No negative issues associated with the individual.
 - No reasons for dismissal highlighted.
 - Experience and performance during the term were satisfactory.
 - No mistakes or shortcomings reported.

Reasons for choosing to “dismiss” SJ Paul Lam

- **Violation of Rule of Law and Basic Principles**
 - Implemented Article 23 legislation that restricts freedom of speech and damages economic freedom.
 - Simplified legislative procedures under Article 23, lacking transparency and citizen reassurance.
 - Limited freedoms excessively, undermining the common law principles of Hong Kong.
 - Failed to defend the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.
 - Contributed to the breakdown of the separation of powers in Hong Kong.
- **Alignment with Central Government Interests**
 - Focused on security matters at the expense of fairness and justice.
 - Acted in favor of the central government without representing the interests of Hong Kong citizens.
 - Shifted legal decisions towards aligning with central government directives.
 - Undermined judicial independence by following political agendas over legal principles.
 - Failed to uphold Hong Kong's legal rights and prioritized national security over all else.
- **Incompetence and Lack of Integrity**
 - Demonstrated incompetence in upholding legal standards and principles.
 - Misinterpreted laws and failed to adhere to common law principles.
 - Lacked integrity, acting as a puppet for political interests rather than serving Hong Kong citizens.
 - Used laws as tools for political persecution, disregarding fairness and justice.
 - Failed to safeguard human rights, rule of law, and judicial independence effectively.